

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A ~~primary~~-composition comprising at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The ~~primary~~-composition according to claim 1, wherein the carotenoid-containing material is obtained, extracted or purified from a material selected from the group consisting of a plant material, or-vegetable material, microorganism, yeast ~~or~~ and product of animal origin.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The ~~primary~~-composition according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the carotenoid-containing material is in ~~the~~ a form selected from the group consisting of an extract, a concentrate ~~or~~ and an oleoresin.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The ~~primary~~-composition according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 3~~, wherein ~~in which~~ the *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound are present in an amount effective to increase the bioavailability and/or bioefficacy of ~~said~~ the carotenoid compound.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The ~~primary~~-composition according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the plant ~~or~~ and vegetable material is selected from the group consisting of tomatoes, carrots, peaches, apricots, oranges, melons, guavas, papayas, grapefruit, rosehips, soya, green tea, green coffee beans, spices, grapes ~~or~~ and cocoa.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The ~~primary~~-composition according to ~~one of claims claim 1 to 5~~, wherein the carotenoid compound is selected from the group consisting of lycopene, carotenes, zeaxanthine, astaxanthine,  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin, capsanthine, canthaxanthine, lutein, phytofluene ~~or~~ and phytoene.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ~~primary composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 6, wherein in which~~ the *cis:trans* isomers ratio of the carotenoid compound is ~~of~~ at least 20:80.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The ~~primary composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 7, wherein the composition which~~ is in a form selected from the group consisting of a liquid, gel ~~or~~ and powder form.

Claim 9 (currently amended) An oral composition comprising at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound ~~the primary composition according to one of claims 1 to 8,~~ in a form selected from the group consisting of a foodstuff, in a food supplement, in a pet food product, in a cosmetic preparation or in a pharmaceutical preparation.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The oral composition according to claim 9, wherein the foodstuff is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of a nutritional complete formula, a dairy product, a chilled or shelf stable beverage, a mineral water, a liquid drink, a soup, a dietary supplement, a meal replacement, a nutritional bar, a confectionery product, a milk or a fermented milk product, a yogurt, a milk based powder, an enteral nutrition product, an infant formulae, an infant nutritional product, a cereal product or a fermented cereal based product, an ice-cream, a chocolate, coffee, a culinary product ~~or~~ and a pet food product.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The oral composition according to claim 9 ~~or~~ 10, wherein the food supplement is provided in ~~the~~ a form selected from the group consisting of capsules, gelatin capsules, soft capsules, tablets, sugar-coated tablets, pills, pastes or pastilles, gums, drinkable solutions or emulsions, syrups ~~or~~ and gels.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The oral composition according to claim 11, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of a sweetener, a stabilizer, a flavoring and a colorant.

Claim 13 (original) The oral composition according to claim 9, wherein the cosmetic preparation additionally comprises a compound active with respect to the skin.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The oral composition according to ~~one of claims claim 9 to 13~~, wherein the content of the ~~primary~~ composition is between about 0.001 and 100%, and preferably between about 10 and 50%.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A cosmetic composition comprising at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound ~~the primary composition according to one of claims 1 to 8~~.

Claim 16 (original) The cosmetic composition according to claim 15, wherein the content of primary composition is between about 10<sup>sup</sup>.-10% and 10%.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a ~~primary composition according to claim 1 to 8~~, which comprises subjecting at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound ~~the carotenoid-containing material~~ to a treatment under conditions sufficient to increase ~~its~~ the content of the ~~in~~ *cis*-isomers ~~of in~~ the carotenoid containing material ~~compound~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The process according to claim 17, wherein the *cis*-isomer content is in an amount effective to increase the bioavailability and bioefficacy of said carotenoid compound.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The process according to claim 18, wherein the treatment is selected from the group consisting of a thermal, or acidic treatment, an electromagnetic irradiation or and a radical reaction.

Claim 20 (original) The process according to claim 19, wherein the primary composition is further subjected to a treatment to modify its isomer profile.

Claim 21 (currently amended)      The process according to claim 20, in which the treatment is a solubilisation of *cis*-isomers in selected organic solvents followed by a phase separation using centrifugation or filtration.

Claim 22 (currently amended)      ~~A method Use of a primary composition comprising at least one carotenoid-containing material enriched in *cis*-isomers, for the preparation of an oral, cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition for improving skin health~~ comprising the step of administering to a patient in need of improved skin health at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound.

Claim 23 (currently amended)      ~~The use method according to claim 22, for wherein the method for improving skin health includes at least one treatment selected from the group consisting of protecting the tissues of the skin against ageing, in the prevention or treatment of sensible, dry or reactive skins, or for improving skin density or firmness, and~~ for increasing skin photoprotection.

Claim 24 (currently amended)      ~~A method Use of a primary composition comprising at least one carotenoid-containing material enriched in *cis*-isomers, for the preparation of an oral, cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating cardiovascular diseases or cancers~~ comprising the step of administering to a patient having cardiovascular disease at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound.

Claim 25 (new)      The oral composition according to claim 9, wherein the content of the composition is between about 10 and 50%.

Claim 26 (new)      A method for preventing or treating cancer comprising the step of administering to a patient having cancer at least one carotenoid-containing material, enriched in *cis*-isomers of the carotenoid compound.